

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3, 5-7, 9-11, 15, 17-19, 21, and 23-24 with the following amended claims:

1 3. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 wherein
2 said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a
3 polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, gelatin, a
4 gum, or salts or derivatives of any of these, or mixtures thereof.

1 5. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
2 said gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.

1 6. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
2 said precipitant is a salt of calcium, zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates;
3 glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates.

1 7. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 further
2 containing a foaming agent.

1 9. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 wherein
2 the gelling agent comprises an alginate gel, a carageenan gel or a
3 carboxymethylcellulose gel and wherein the precipitant is a calcium salt.

1 10. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 wherein
2 the gelling agent comprises carboxymethylcellulose gel and wherein the
3 precipitant is an aluminium salt.

AS 11. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 further
2 comprising an organic acid in an amount of 0.5 g to 5.0 g per 100 g gelling
3 agent.

AS 1 15. (Amended) A foam as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said
2 gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a polysaccharide,
3 agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, gelatin, a gum, or salts or
4 derivatives of any of these, or mixtures thereof.

AS 1 17. (Amended) A foam as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said
2 gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.

AS 1 18. (Amended) A foam as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said
2 precipitant is a salt of calcium, zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates;
3 glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates.

AS 1 19. (Amended) A foam as claimed in Claim 12 further
2 containing a foaming agent.

AS 1 21. (Amended) A process of sterilising a foam for medical or
2 veterinary use, said process comprising:

AS 1 a) foaming a formulation of Claim 1 and allowing said foamed
2 formulation to cure;

AS 1 b) treating said foam with precipitant;

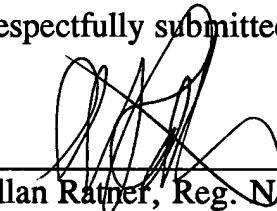
AS 1 c) optionally, washing said treated foam;

7
8 d) drying said treated foam; and
9 e) sterilising said dried foam by exposure to γ - irradiation or
ethylene oxide.

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1 23. (Amended) The process of Claim 21 wherein the treated
foam is oven dried at temperatures below 100°C.

1 24. (Amended) The process of Claim 21 wherein the foam is
immersed in a bath of calcium chloride or calcium citrate solution as precipitant.

Respectfully submitted,


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Kristen Foley